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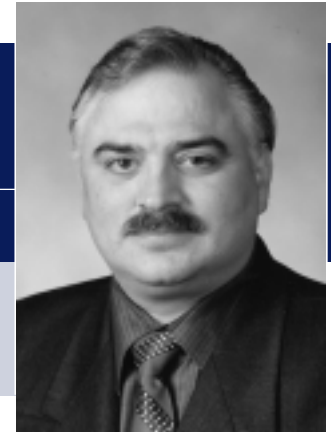
2003 SESSION REPORT

**CONTROLLING
TAXES AND
MAKING
GOVERNMENT
WORK FOR YOU!**

REPRESENTATIVE TOM CAMPBELL

2ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

*Serving the citizens of Graham, Spanaway,
Roy, McKenna, Eatonville, Orting, Puyallup's
South Hill, Fort Lewis, Yelm and Rainier*



Dear friends,

During the spring I hosted a series of public meetings around our legislative district. Between questions about roads, law enforcement, health care and more, I heard two requests again and again: hold the line on taxes, and make sure citizens get a worthwhile return on the taxes they pay. With those wishes in mind, I'd have to say the 2003 legislative session turned out pretty well for citizens in our area. Please take a few minutes to read this brief report on some of the important decisions that were made, and how they affect us.

It is a pleasure and honor to serve as your representative. Please remember that my top priority is maintaining the quality of life for the people of the 2nd District. I'm always happy to hear from you and ready to help.

Sincerely,

Rep. Tom Campbell

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Transportation
Health Care
Judiciary

Joint Select Committee on
Military & Veteran's Affairs





REP. TOM CAMPBELL • SERVING THE 2ND DISTRICT

CONTROLLING TAXES

Leaner government: The House of Representatives and Senate agreed to allocate a little more than \$23 billion for state government operations in 2003-05. That's 2 percent more than the 2001-03 budget – the least amount of growth from one budget to the next in **at least 40 years**. This new budget **didn't require a tax increase**, and keeps state government living within its means. It also focuses the state's limited resources on essential needs (although I sure wish we could have steered more money toward health care services for children). All in all, the operating budget turned out about as well as it could have for Washington taxpayers.

A breakthrough in road projects for our area: I couldn't support the 5-cent-per-gallon gas tax increase the Legislature approved. But more of the gas tax you and I pay will be coming back to the 2nd District in the form of better roads. Through my position on the House Transportation Committee, I was able to make a strong case for steering more gas tax proceeds toward road projects in our district – **almost \$44 million worth of new road work** over the next decade.

I'm especially pleased the transportation schedule we supported will put \$15 million toward the long-awaited "Cross-Base Highway" (State Route 704, between Interstate 5 and Frederickson); \$9.8 million to widen Meridian between 176th and 204th; and another \$9.6 million for Meridian between 204th and 234th. This is on top of \$29.9 million worth of smaller road projects already on the transportation schedule.

These projects are vital for easing traffic congestion, improving safety for schoolchildren, and helping our economy. We've needed these projects for a long time, and now we have them.

More investments in the facilities our communities

use: The competition for dollars from the state's capital budget (for construction) is strong. I was able to convince the chairman of the Capital Budget Committee to include **funding for projects in Spanaway, Orting, Rainier, Graham, Eatonville and Yelm**. The amounts are relatively small, but the benefits of these projects to their communities will be very great.

One example: the capital budget includes \$250,000 for preliminary design of an evacuation footbridge across the Carbon River. This "bridge for kids" will give Orting schoolchildren a new and better route to cross the river to higher ground in the event of a mudflow (or "lahar") from nearby Mount Rainier. I've talked with Orting school officials and parents about this concern for a long time, and I'm glad it is now getting the attention it deserves.



I was pleased to sponsor Darcie Estep, a Cascade Christian student from Puyallup, when she served as a legislative page during the 2003 session. Students who want to serve as pages next year may apply now; please contact my office for details.

MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK FOR YOU

At last, a prescription-drug bill becomes law: As a longtime member and former co-chair of the Health Care Committee, I have consistently sought **relief for people who have had trouble finding or affording prescription medication – especially our senior citizens**.

This year the Legislature finally agreed to create a list of "preferred drugs" that will cost the state less money; direct the Department of Social and Health Services to design and seek federal consent for a Medicaid senior prescription drug program; and direct the state Health Care Authority to negotiate price discounts for qualified people who are 50 or older and do not have prescription drug coverage otherwise. The new law follows years of debate and numerous proposals in both the House and Senate, and I have high hopes for it.

Providing for increased law enforcement: In our part of Pierce County, there are too few sheriff's deputies trying to cover too much territory. The Legislature approved a measure that will allow counties to ask their voters to adopt a "local option" tax. I successfully amended the bill to require that one-third of the proceeds from any such tax be **dedicated to criminal justice purposes**.

Fluoridation, reservist, 'canine profiling' issues must wait: House Bill 1068, my legislation requiring a vote on any local ordinance providing for water fluoridation, received committee approval but was not brought to the entire House for a vote. The same was true for House Bill 1285. It would bring state law in line with federal law concerning the reemployment of reservists who leave jobs when they are called to active duty.

House Bill 1895 is my bill to prohibit insurance companies from discriminating against homeowners who own specific breeds of dogs, unless the dog meets the statutory definition of "dangerous dog." This is known as "canine profiling" and can affect your ability to obtain homeowner's insurance. Although the bill and the profiling issue attracted a lot of media attention around the country, HB 1895 didn't move forward. I'll be trying again in 2004.

Appointment to committee on military, veteran's affairs: The Speaker of the House recently appointed me to the Joint Select Committee on Military and Veteran's Affairs. I'm very proud to serve on this important committee, which is responsible for studying issues and making recommendations to the Legislature concerning veterans, active military forces, National Guard members and reservists, as well as the structure and administration of the state's Department of Veterans Affairs and its Military Department.

I want our veterans and active military to know I'm supporting them. Being a fellow veteran, I have the background and knowledge to represent their points of view and make sure our state government is meeting their needs.